investment made on the projected production estimate and investment by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that plastic goods are highly priced although their production cost is low;

(c) whether it is a fact that drip-irrigation pipes are sold at double the cost price due to subsidy to farmers who are buying pipes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the per capita consumption of plastic in India and world average?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) According to information available, there are about 20,000 plastic processing units in the country. The investment in plant and machinery in these units in 1991-92 was about Rs. 2,000 crores. The projected investment is expected to be Rs. 4,500 crores by 2000 AD.

(b) The prices of plastic products are neither controlled nor monitored by the Government. In view of a very large number of plastic processing units operating in the country and as a result of healthy competition, the prices of these goods are expected to be fair.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does no arise.

(e) The per capita consumption of plastics has been reported to be around 1.5 Kgs in India as against the world average of 16 Kgs.

वस्त्र मशीनरी उद्योग में संकट

@*278. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वस्त्र मशीनरी उद्योग संकट के दौर से गुजरने के कारण बंद होने के कगार पर खड़ा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या उक्त उद्योग की समस्याओं के समाधान तथा उसे पूर्ववत् चालू रखने के लिए सरकार द्वारा कोई कदम उठाया गया है अथवा उठाए जाने का विचार है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है ?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कृष्णा साही) : (क) और (ख) वस्त्र उद्योग में मंदी के कारण वस्त्र मशीनरी उद्योग का उत्पादन 1991–92 में जो 1029.60 करोड़ रु० था 1992–93 में घटकर 1014.00 करोड़ रु० हो गया था।

(ग) और (घ) सरकार ने वस्त्र मशीनरी निर्माण उद्योग के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए कई उपाय किए हैं। सरकार ने 1994–95 के केन्द्रीय बजट में उपायों की घोषणा की है, जिनमें से कुछ इस प्रकार हैं :

(i) परियोजना आयातों और समान्य पूंजीगत सामानों पर मूल सीमा-शुल्क 35% से घटाकर 25% कर दिया गया है;

(ii) स्वदेशी उद्योग के हितों के रक्षा करने के लिए पूंजीगत वस्तुओं की आयात पर स्वदेशी पूंजीगत वस्तुओं पर उत्पाद शुल्क के बराबर काउन्टर-वेलिंग शुल्क लगाने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है;

(iii) पुर्जो पर आयात शुल्क चाहे इन्हें पुर्जो के रूप में अथवा फालतू पुर्जो के रूप में या मूल उपकरण के रूप में आयात किया गया हो, घटाकर 25% कर दिया

@पूर्वत: तारांकित प्रश्न 198, 8 मार्च 1994 से स्थानांतरित ।

गया है। इस समय यह शुल्क 25% से 85% तक है।

(iv) इस्पात पर सीमा शुल्क 75–85% से घटाकर 50% कर दिया गया है।

(v) माउवेट योजना पूंजीगत माल उद्योग पर लागू कर दी गयी है।

Gas Cracker Project at Gandhar Complex

*279. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited has performed the unique feat of cutting down the project cost of its third integrated gas-cracker and downstream units at Gandhar Complex; and

(b) if so, what was the original estimated cost of the project, how far it has been slashed and by what means it has been possible?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of India accorded investment approval to the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) for the Gandhar Complex in March, 1992. The approved cost of the project consisting of C2/C3 separation facilities cracker and various downstream units, was Rs. 3485 crores.

In the light of subsequent developments such as changes in custom duties, difficulties in sourcing technologies for certain downstream units, reduction in internal resources, non-availability of gas for power generation etc., IPCL has re-examined the strategy for implementation of the Gandhar complex. The revised strategy contemplates setting up of integrated C2/C3 and LPG recovery unit and certain downstream projects and utilities as joint ventures resulting in reduction of IPCL's investment; phased implementation of the project, and reorganising the procurement activities to take advantage of reduction in custom duties and interest rates.

The above measures are likely to result in reduction in the IPCL's investment by about Rs. 585 crores.

Availing of Privileges by Government Officials

*280. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "High-flying elite find their wings clipped" appearing in the Statesman dated 16th February, 1994;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to officials availing of special privileges; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that high officials behave with dignity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the context of Air India's Companion Free Scheme it has been clarified that since the expenditure on travel of a Government servant proceeding abroad on official work is borne by the Government, the benefit of the Complimentary Companion Ticket provided by the Air India would accrue to the Government and not to the individual performing the journey. Necessary provisions already exist in CCS (Conduct) Rules on the question of acceptance of gift by a Government servant or any member of his family or any other person acting on his behalf. The rules also provide that a Government servant shall at all times do nothing which is unbecoming of a Government servant.